

1947  
Report of the Montreal YMCA  
Camp Perrot for Boys & Girls.

To the Board of  
Management.

Gentlemen:-

Introduction

The fourth season of the YMCA Camp on Ile Perrot was a stimulating experience for campers, staff and other adults. It was not without its problems. Many of the difficulties arose when the sudden expansion required additional equipment and a necessary enlargement of the staff. Our resources were often taxed to the limit, but with the steady and willing co-operation of all the personnel connected with the camp, including the campers, we were able to conclude a successful season without serious difficulties.

I feel the camp has reached a degree of maturity as far as possible with the present equipment. The numbers attending have greatly increased. Many new outlets for using the camp property have been developed. The camp acted as host to 260 campers, 15 other organized parties, and an average of 80 parents and visitors each Sunday during the camping season.

The formal camping season was open for a period of nine weeks beginning Wednesday June 25th. and closing August 27th. The statistical report as attached, will reveal the extensive use made of the property during 1947.

Since the close of the camp in 1946, many people recognized the desirability of the surrounding area and as a result, a colony of cottagers have bought and erected private dwellings on the adjacent property. While this invasion of neighbours has been thrust upon us, they in no way interfered with any phase of our program or activities during the season, still they left a deep

impression that we should at once look to our fences and expand to the East before the camp is enclosed.

The exceptionally high flood waters of the Spring, altered the contour of our shoreline, swept away many fine trees, scattered the beach, eroded the cliff and left the cabin near the shore in a precarious position - it now must be moved before the beginning of another season, if it is to be saved - However, before the formal camping began, the water receded and by the middle of the year our fine sand beach began to reappear.

The values of the property, not only in material worth, but physical and spiritual are, I am sure, understood by those who have visited the site. With the necessary vision and encouragement this area can be developed into a broad program spot, easily accessible to many more YMCA activities than it at present enjoys.

CAMP PERROT  
Statistics.  
1947

Branch	1946	1947	1947		1947
	Boys & Girls (weekers)	Quota (weekers)	Boys (Actual)	Girls (Actual)	Actual (weekers) Total
Southwestern	107	120	98	73	171
N. D. G.	54	60	32	16	48
East. Comm.	7	10	20	0	20
North	37	100	77	13	90
Central	102	75	73	0	73
Lachine	120	100	66	21	87
Westmount	33	40	36	5	41
Pte. St. Chas.	19	20	13	0	13
Rosemount	0	20	20	16	36
Camp Office	73	0	107	21	128
International	5	40	2	4	6
	<u>557</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>713</u>

A "weeker" is a camper attending camp for a period of one week (Registration for Boys and Girls were not accepted after July 4th., 1947 as more than the capacity at that time had been reached.)

NUMBER of CAMPERS by WEEKLY PERIODS (BOYS)

June 25 - July 2..... 68				Length of Stay of Campers	
July 2 - " 9 .....101				Boys	Girls
" 9 - " 16	93	Less than 1 week		4	0
" 16 - " 23	90	One week		15	10
" 23 - " 30	90	Two "		84	34
" 30 - Aug. 6	85	Three "		29	31
		Four "		21	
		Five "		8	
		Six "		24	
				<u>185</u>	<u>75</u>

Total No. of different Boys that attended camp = 185  
 " " " Girls " " " = 75  
260

ORGANIZATIONS (not included above) THAT CAME  
TO CAMP & USED FACILITIES

St. James the Apostle,		BOYS OVERNIGHT GROUPS	
Anglican Church picnic	(150)	Central "Y"	(2 groups)
Central YMCA So-Ed Club (2)	(85)	North Branch	(2 " )
Lachine Protestant Churches	( )	Pte. St. Chas.	(2 " )
picnics (three)	(375)	N. D. G.	(1 " )
Pte. St. Charles Young People	( )	Eastern Comm.	(1 " )
Barn Dances (2)	(90)	Westmount	(1 " )
Mtl. Area Hi-Y Conference	(35)	Each group averaged 7 people -	
(three days)			
Ste. Anne de Bellevue Protestant S.S.	(40)		
Lachine "Y" Crippled Children	(10)		
North Branch "Y"-Y.M. Council	(10)		
"Y" Camp Committee	(8)		

Attendance 803 Attendance

10  
68  
93  
171  
aw 57  
270  
150  
420 x 2  
82  
502 x 3  
200 x 2 400  
100 x 2 = 200



## NEW EQUIPMENT

The development of the camp property has proceeded along a definite long range plan as outlined by the Camp Board some time ago. This year, several phases of expansion program were necessary in advance of the proposed time-table. These included, four new tent platforms, completing the upper and lower tent circles, and 32 new bunks, similar to the type used in the other tents. Extra dishes, cutlery, tables, benches and many other small items were also required and purchased when the increased accommodation was necessary.

Four new boats proved a welcome and valuable addition to the aquatic program. The boats were used not only during the boating periods, but proved their worth as pilot and life-guarding craft during the three daily swims. As the high water of this Spring swept away all of our approach to the dock, it was necessary this year to re-build the steps and most of the foundation. In trying to do this job at the least possible expense, we did not put as strong supports as required in the building and as a result, after three severe storms, we were forced to erect the wharf again.

With so much playing space available we also purchased a rugby football, baseballs, bats and volleyball for use in the field. These items of sporting equipment provided many times their value in fun and active play.

After attempting to drain the land between the kitchen and dining hall, we found that the best method was to sprinkle fine crushed stone around the surface. This eliminated the need of digging drains to take off the surface water, the clay soil in the area being such that it did not absorb the water after a rain.

The kitchen stove, in previous years, a constant source of annoyance to the cooking staff, was in the early part of this year converted into use for coal, an electric blower attached, the chimney stack extended and a new type top, called a vacuum cap added. However, the foreman in charge of the alterations, after looking over the situation, said that, complete satisfaction would not be gained unless we cut down the huge Elm tree that over-shadowed the chimney draft. Rather than cut down a beautiful

tree (for they are limited on the property), we accepted the new chimney and the stove operated reasonably well 95% of the time.

#### PROGRAM

To give a detailed account of the varied program carried on this summer would be an exhaustive record running into a good many more pages than this entire report therefore, in this short space, we shall merely summarize the general weekly program and give the highlights of the special programs conducted. Swimming, boating and canoe trips seemed, as usual, to attract the most interest.

Monday mornings throughout the camp season was always "Breakfast Out", when the campers secured their supplies from the kitchen and in front of their own tent, cooked their meal. Tuesday, camp fire night, Wednesday, "Fires-of Friendship" conducted separately by each tent to greet the new campers. Thursday, tent projects. Friday, the trip to the village, Saturday, hike day and campfire and Sunday, the Chapel Service and visitors day. Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons were craft periods for woodwork, clay modelling, art, archery and gardening. A few of the outstanding events were; Olympic Day, Indian Day, Camper's Day, the Christmas and New Years Parties, the Hayrides, Regattas, Stunt Nights, Campfires, etc.

Eight over-night canoe trip parties for the boys were conducted to Cascade Island and one two day trip circled Perrot Island, while numerous other short trips were taken to nearby points, Beauharnois, the Canal and island. The privilege of going on such trips, while restricted to only the highest qualified swimmers was always popular and the one canoe suitable for such excursions was always in action.

#### CHAPEL

The site of the Chapel was this year transferred to the beautiful grove of trees in the middle of the property. Through careful arrangement we were able to mark out an area that can accommodate 100 people with ease and comfort without in any way disturbing or removing any of the trees or shrubs. Rough hewn logs were placed on the ground for seats and a general plan drawn up for the construction of an outdoor Chapel. Anyone who has ever had the opportunity of attending one of these services will testify



to the beauty and quiet dignity the spot gives to our Christian emphasis program.

Mr. W. C. Holiday, Secretary on the Montreal Association, proved to be invaluable as a source man in preparing a standard set of evening devotions for use of the counsellors in their tent groups. These brief, to the point, religious messages, a fusion of the new with the old, are the type of reading that had a great appeal to the boys and really emphasized our Christian program. Mr. Holliday was also kind enough to spend one Sunday with us and speak at the Chapel Service. Other "Y" men we are indebted to for their Sunday talks are: Mr. Robt. Smith of Southwestern, Roy Shepherd of N.D.G., Mr. H. C. Clinch of Westmount YMCA, Mr. E. Hammond of the Camp Board and Mr. B. Rajaiah of India.

All Chapel service collections were contributed to the World Youth Fund.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

The general health situation during 1947 was very good. The fact that we were not able to obtain the services of a registered nurse until the month of August speaks volumes for the staff. They all pitched in on occasions and took over the hospital duties and care of the small cuts, headaches and minor ailments, besides their regular duties, until the arrival of the very efficient and capable, Miss Elizabeth Couilly.

Dr. Kelso of St. Annes gave unstintingly of his time and skill when we were without proper medical supervision in the first five weeks of camp. Dr. Kelso arranged to visit us each Wednesday on arrival of the new campers and gave each boy a physical and health check-up. He also made a special visit during the week to inspect and advise us on any case that baffled our knowledge. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Kelso for keeping a watchful eye on our wards, his friendly interest in the camp and his readiness, at any hour, to respond, whenever we consulted him.

## PUBLICITY & PROMOTION

This years excellent folder, was, I feel sure one of the major reasons why we were flooded with applications so early in the season. We found it necessary to limit the number going to camp shortly after the opening date, then on July 4th. had to refuse further applications for enrolment for the rest of the season.

The folders were mailed out to all old campers, and distributed in many local schools and the YMCA's by the branch secretaries. Branches were also provided with posters.

Several minor revisions, I feel are necessary and should be considered for inclusion in next years booklet. These suggestions are in the Recommendation list on this report.

The Westward Rotary Club again sent a number of boys and girls to the Camp. The majority of these came from Lachine and were selected by Mr. H. Patterson of the Lachine YMCA. Mr. Duckworth of the N.D.G., YMCA as chairman of the Youth Service Committee, made the necessary arrangements with the Rotary Club.

## GARDEN

The garden at Perrot this year was very late in planting, due to the very wet Spring months, and as a result, the crop was as a whole, too late to be of advantage to the camp.

Careful consideration of the camp needs, and expected return from the garden should be made for another year and the project greatly modified.

*earlier crop*

## STATION WAGON

The acquisition of the Station-Wagon formerly used at Kanawana, aided greatly in the securing of supplies, cut down immensely in transportation costs, allowed us to buy produce and goods at lower costs in a wider market and proved invaluable in many cases of emergency.



## STAFF

This report would not be complete without grateful words of thanks to all those who contributed towards making the season a success.

One must first mention the Staff and Counsellors, for upon their shoulders rested the responsibility of planning program, dealing with the daily problems that arise and maintaining the ideals and standards of the camp throughout the summer months.

Once again we feel safe in saying that "never before was so much done, by so few, for so many" as the members of the staff contributed this year.

Alden Wheeler, a Navy Veteran, student at the McGill School of Physical Education, this year, was the Program Director and rendered commendable service and was most helpful particularly in the swimming and aquatic program.

Mr. Rudolph Lehrs as Camp Manager, did an excellent job, not only in the administration of the accounts, purchasing and general duties related to such an arduous position, but his even disposition and variety of skills in program made his presence a valuable asset to the camp.

Miss Elizabeth Colly, the Camp Nurse during August, set a very high standard of cheerfulness, cleanliness, efficiency and competence in her duties at camp. No praise is too high for the wonderful way she was able to fit into the camp life and contribute to it.

Peter Sykes returned for his third year, this season as Senior Counsellor and Director of the Out Trips. His pleasant manner and calm efficiency added a great deal to the camp program.

Russell Bell, with his jovial manner and ever willingness to assume new duties and responsibilities as an seasoned Senior Counsellor, was ever helpful in numerous situations.

Terry Seaman, an outstanding pianist returned to the camp for his third season. This ever welcome contribution in the field of music and song-leading always stimulated the campers and called for



encores. For some time he also took over hospital duties and added further lustre to his laurels.

Mrs Patricia Parr returned for her fourth year as Chef of the camp but left shortly after the opening of the Girls' Camp. She was succeeded by the very capable, efficient cook, Mdme. La Tour who consistently produced good appetizing meals.

The splendid volunteer services of the Counsellors deserves special mention and thanks. They maintained the highest standards of service and camping in their duties during the season.

Ray Bowman  
Guy Jutras  
Rene Chabout  
Gilbert Young  
Charles Gaitens  
John Smith  
Harry Pederson  
Nick Assley

Ken Bernham  
Malcolm Brownridge  
Robin Matheson  
George Ward  
Fred Collins  
Ian Smith  
Albert Gaitens  
Alex Maciviez

We are also thankful for the assistance and leadership given by Gerald Wright, Al. Twintarney, Gordon Mackey and the members of the Camp Board who frequently visited with us and gave their support and aid.

To Miss Mae Houghton and Miss Vera Rutherford of the staff city office goes a special word of appreciation. Their devotion to the camp as evidenced through long hours of work and diplomatic handling of delicate situations was most thorough.

## GIRLS CAMP

1947

Mrs L. T. Dodds acted as Resident Director of the Girls' Camp. This was Mrs Dodds first year in an administrative capacity but not her first one in camp experience or direction of girls work. Previously, Mrs Dodds had a great deal of work with Sunday School groups and Church projects.

Girls Camp opened on August 6th. and ended August 27th., during which time we had 75 campers, who had the good fortune to have ideal camping weather. There was only one rainstorm to break the very warm, sunny days. Judging from the splendid teamwork of Staff, Councillors and Campers, I feel we had a very happy camp life. We had many visitors at camp. Mrs. Owens and other Camp Committee members paid an official visit to the camp on August 21st. An average of 80 parents and visitors came on Sundays when we served afternoon tea out on the lawn.

### PROGRAM

Swimming was very popular throughout the camping period due to the very capable instructress, Marilyn Mathews. Some canoe trips were made to Cascades Island. Crafts were held three afternoons of each week when the campers had a choice of canoeing instruction, dancing, dramatics, clay modelling, and archery. Carol Hammond had an rdprvislly good dance group which met in the Barn for instruction and these campers demonstrated their skill on two occasions for evening programs in the Barn and at the Closing Banquet. Much priase is due to Carol for the capable way she handled this project. Jane Hammond showed particular aptitude for Dramatics and did some fine work with her group which also took part in the program for the Closing Banquet. Archery was taken by Phil Dunn of the Chateauguay Archery Club. There were many group games and baseball in addition to which were special features such as: Campfires (in particular, the opening and closing Torchlight parades); individual Fires of Friendship; stunt and amateur nights; dramatics night; dance recital in the Barn; pyjama parade; campers day; backwards day; masquerade; olympic swimming meet; track and field meet; movies; Christmas Party; New Year's Party; hay ride; Indian Night; Saturdays all day hike; Monday mornings breakfast out; log dinners; closing banquet. By popular vote, Ann Avison was elected the best counsellor for 1947 and Helen McLean, the best camper.

### Chapel

Chapel Service was held each Sunday in the camp grove of trees at 11:00 AM with Staff members in charge. The Record Player donated by Mr. Hammond, was used at all Chapel services and helped



greatly in creating a reverend worship in the outdoors. An average of ten girls went to early Mass at the Village Church at 7:30 AM each Sunday and all campers attended the Camp Chapel Service.

#### HEALTH

No praise is too high for the Camp Nurse, Miss Elizabeth Colly who examined the girls at frequent intervals. The nurse helped in setting a standard for cleanliness in the washing of dishes, tea towels and dining tables. These were all inspected after each meal.

#### STAFF

Marilyn Mathews was in charge of swimming and water-front and helped with other phases of camp activities, in all, she exhibited talent and enthusiasm. She was an invaluable staff member.

Carol and Jane Hammond, who were Program Assistants, did splendid work and their many skills in this field made them also invaluable in the life of the camper.

When camp opened we had seven Counselors: Bess Clements, Gladys Hincheliffe, June Petrie Earla Taylor, Alberta Gilbert, Mary Bullock, Anne Avison. Brenda Lamb and Maurien Mears, both of whom were campers, even made Counsellors, a position they filled very well. The second week of camp, Carol Dal-lison and Joan Henley came as additional Counsellors. Pat Neason, a camper, was made a spare Counsellor.

When Mrs Pair withdrew from camp as Chef, the campers, Counsellors and staff helped me in every way to prepare the meals for five days until we secured Mme. La Tour, who proved to be a very efficient cook.

The great part which the Counsellors accepted during the entire camp exemplified a high type of Christian Service to campers, the community and the YMCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Verlie Dodds  
(Girls' Camp Directress)

Recommendations  
Camp Perrot 1947.

Property:

1. Negotiations should start soon with our Farmer-neighbour on the East, Mr. Leduc, to exchange an equal or greater area of our unused land back of our barn, for his piece of property adjacent to ours and below the road.
2. That if possible, an arrangement, or long term lease, be concluded with our East shore-line neighbour, Mr. Lalonde, for use of his meadows and beach for campers during the season only.
3. The water-front area cliffs be graded, or other steps be taken before next season, to prevent further erosion of the land & beach.
4. Work on the moving of the water-front cottage should begin as soon as the frost is in the ground.
5. Reforestration plans, as developed by the Board to prevent erosion, beautify the grounds and to mark the boundry lines, will be very valuable in the years to come and should commence in the early Spring.

Construction:

1. The camp has now reached the stage where an adequate Dining Hall is required with facilities, not only for the campers, but the proper reception of Conference groups, organized parties, and other YMCA program features can be accommodated. This is necessary if full use is to be made of the property.
2. A Hospital unit separated from the Administration building is required.
3. A Craft Shop building adequately equipped would add a great deal to the program and provide constructive leisure- time hobbies for the campers.
4. Sturdy constructed tables and benches are needed for the Dining Hall and around the grounds.



Program:

1. The barn could be converted into a rainy-day play area and auditorium for games, dances, dramatic presentations, etc.
2. Camp Perrot has within its reach great stretches of water-ways that lead to many spots of historical and education interest to the campers. With additional canoes many more parties could be conducted to these places of interest, both one day and over-night trips should be featured.
3. In order to provide a well-rounded camping experience for all it should be stipulated that no campers be accepted for a period of less than two weeks.

Staff:

1. The staff, if the numbers of the camp are to be increased, should also be augmented with a helper in the kitchen, office secretary, and at least one more paid member on the program staff.

Other Suggestions:

1. No refunds should be granted on the registration fee unless illness occurs.
2. If a camper withdraws before the completion of registered time - except in case of illness - no refund should be granted for the time not spent at camp.

Respectfully submitted,

O. N. H. Owens  
Chairman.

A. T. Dodds  
Camp Director.